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## **CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PARTNERS FUND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW SCHOOLS FOR FIRST NATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA**

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**Amherst, NS (April 5, 2007)** – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced that the federal government would fund two school construction projects in Nova Scotia, totalling \$7.5 million over two years. This is part of the federal government's national announcement of more than \$50 million for investment in school infrastructure projects across Canada.

"Canada's New Government is committed to taking the steps necessary to address education requirements for First Nations and believes that First Nations learners deserve the best possible facilities in which they can learn and thrive," said Minister Prentice. "We will continue to work in partnership with First Nations and provinces to ensure an effective education system in which First Nations people can excel."

"Today's announcement is evidence that Canada's New Government is moving on its commitment to improve the quality of life for Aboriginals across Canada," said the Honourable Peter MacKay, Regional Minister for Nova Scotia.

Canada's New Government is supporting school construction projects in the following First Nations:

**Shubenacadie Band and Waycobah First Nation Schools:** Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will contribute \$ 7.5 million over two years to the Mi'kmaw Kina'matenewey (MK) towards the construction of two new schools, one for the Shubenacadie Band and one for the Waycobah First Nation. The 10 member MK communities will provide the remaining amount required. The new on-reserve schools will be constructed to accommodate kindergarten to grade 12 programs, and will be focal points for each community, providing modern facilities and learning technologies, as well as space for community services and gatherings. Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2007.

The Mi'kmaw Kina'matenewey is a Mi'kmaq run organization that maintains jurisdiction over all education for 10 member Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia.

"It is long overdue, it is progress in the community," said Chief Alex McDonald, of the Shubenacadie Band. "The people have been waiting patiently for the new school."

"We are very encouraged and excited with the movement that has taken place on the new school which will be located within the heart of our community. The new school will provide a great learning environment for our future leaders," said Chief Morley Googoo, Waycobah First Nation. "The new school demonstrates what can be achieved with partnerships and co-operation among the Chiefs, the MK, the Minister and the federal government."

Shubenacadie Band is located 28 km southwest of Truro, Nova Scotia and has an on-reserve population of approximately 1,161 residents.

Waycobah First Nation is located 70 km west of Sydney, Nova Scotia and has an on-reserve

population of approximately 763 residents.

Canada's New Government continues to make investments for education facilities across Canada to support projects such as construction, renovation, repair, and design and planning projects, including operation and maintenance, to improve learning environments.

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